

imprinted upon the constitution of the typhoid mortality list by the introduction of the bath treatment :—

Causes of death in typhoid.	According to Murchison.	Brisbane	
		Hospital before bath treatment.	Hospital after introduction of bath treatment.
Perforation....	3.0	3.0	2.9
Hæmorrhage ..	1.4	1.88	1.2
Other causes..	12.8	9.73	3.4
Total mortality, per cent.	17.2	14.5	7.5

There is no doubt great difficulty to be encountered in the endeavor to carry out the bath treatment in private practice, but that it is possible to do so, even in remote country districts, the letter of Dr. Gordon, of Alywin, in the November number of the Montreal Medical Journal, will, I think, prove convincingly. A good deal has been written about the harshness of the treatment, and, no doubt, many patients complain of it at first, but as a rule, they soon find out that they are much more comfortable after it, and are usually glad to bear with patience the immediate disagreeable effects. It is, of course, impossible to carry out this treatment in private without the assistance of one or two skilled nurses. Portable baths can now be obtained, and, provided the practitioner can obtain the assistance of one skilled nurse, there is no valid excuse for its non-employment.

It is said by some observers that relapses are more frequent after the bath, than after other methods of treating the disease. There is however, no proof of this. It is strange what confusion exists as to the real meaning of relapse in typhoid : and this is the reason for the great discrepancy of opinion as to their frequency, ranging between two and four per cent.

Many include all after-febrile attacks, no matter what their duration may be, under the head of relapses, while others call relapses those exacerbations of pyrexia which occur during the course of the disease. Taking a large series of cases, relapses may, in a rough way, be set down as occurring in from about 3 to 12 per cent. of all. In 325 of the 408 Royal Victoria Hospital cases, where particular pains were taken to closely investigate this point, it was found that relapses occurred in about eight per cent. of the cases. This proportion is exactly the same as in Osler's and Liebermeister's series, and is not any larger than that given by observers in different countries where other plans of treating the disease have been followed.

The reduction of temperature affected by the cold bath although an important factor, is not the chief one in its beneficial effects. The most obvious effects are seen in the nervous, respiratory, and vascular systems.